

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
24 NOVEMBER 2020 VIA ZOOM

1 SEDERUNT: Mhairi McKenna (MMcK) (Chair); Alan Bell (AB); Carol Bell (CB); Linden Hunt (LH); Cllr Peter Henderson (PH); Lynn Young (Minutes Secretary)

2 APOLOGIES: Tom Davidson; John Hainey; Laura Cunningham; Gwen Campbell

3 MINUTES: Approved with the following addition to the Treasurer's Report: "Grants approved - £500 for the service of fire alarm in community pub; £359 for Ballantrae News; £232.71 for Christmas lights". Proposed by AB; seconded by LH.

4 MATTERS ARISING: None

5 POLICE REPORT: No report received. PH suggested emailing the Sgt in Maybole and requesting a report, which has probably been overlooked.

6 TREASURER'S REPORT – AB

Current account balance: £8833.29
Savings account balance: £93.75
Harbour account balance: £1904.10

Outstanding monies: LH requested batteries for Christmas lights (£20.95), extra batteries (£65.84), lights and timers (£145.92) – total £232.71. LH had paid this amount and will be repaid.

A further grant to be paid to Ballantrae Trust for fire alarm service: £500

Grant to Ballantrae Trust for Ballantrae News publishing costs: £359.

Total amount to be paid: £1091.71 – this will leave a balance of £7741.58 in the current account when the cheques have been paid.

Ballantrae Scouts are requesting some funding, but no paperwork has been received yet.

7 BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY FUND – MMcK

Claire Graham had requested a logo for the Ballantrae Community Fund, and sent three possible logs from Foundation Scotland. MMcK suggested using the logo which was used for the Ballantrae Food and Drink Festival, and Gateway to Carrick. It was agreed this was a good idea and would keep consistency.

8 CARRICK FUTURES – MMcK

There are 2 directors from Ballantrae on the board: Laura Cunningham and Robin Crosthwaite. RC would like to retire at the next AGM, which is on 16.12.20. CB has offered to join the board; this was agreed unanimously.

Tom Davidson has not attended any meetings in the last 2 years; MMcK will try to speak to him about his continuing membership.

9 KILGALLIOCH: No meeting; prospectus has been issued as an e-version; there is also a hard copy.

10 BALLANTRAE TRUST – CB

We are no further forward with the community pub. Some painting and cleaning has been done in the pub.

AGM is on 26.11.20 via Zoom.

CB asked if anyone would like to join the board of directors as there are 2 vacancies on the board, possibly 3, due to resignations.

Nothing has been done about films etc.

The share offer will be launched 1-2 December 2020, at £1 per share with a minimum purchase of £25. Voting rights are equal, regardless of investment.

LH asked if information about the shares would be issued to make it available to people who are not on social media; CB said information would be posted in the garage, shop etc, and it can also be delivered to people. Publicity banners will be erected for the launch. PH suggested putting it on the SAC website. It will also be publicised in Girvan and Stranraer.

Tom Kerridge has been on TV talking about similar projects where there has been “volunteer fatigue”. We are very lucky to have Grant Steele from Chestnuts Hotel, Ayr, helping us; this was facilitated by South Ayrshire Council.

PH suggested having an independent chair for the AGM on Zoom. Voting can be done anonymously via text to the chair, who will count the votes. It was agreed this is a good method.

AB reported that SAC had issued a £2000 grant for the pub, which was then withdrawn. This is being reconsidered, so it may still be granted. The problem was that we had claimed as a pub, and there was a question that it is also a hotel, so we had fallen between 2 stools. PH said hopefully this will be looked at favourably; SAC have to administer money for a number of different schemes, which is very complex and takes a huge amount of work. He added that if funding can be granted it certainly will be, as staff are trying to help local businesses. AB said that the pub is not taking in any income at present and is costing money.

Ballantrae Food and Drink Festival – fundng is being applied for to cover things being changed or altered. A virtual festival will be put online after the BPDF, and will remain in place for one year. PH suggested contacting Claire Monaghan about this.

11 BALLANRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – MMcK ON BEHALF OF LC

It is hoped the hall lights will go up in the next week or two, depending on the weather.

A Zoom meeting for Carrick Futures will be held on 16.12.20

12 HARBOUR – no bill received yet.

13 ARDSTINCHAR BRIDGE – river is almost bursting banks, and presumably causing more damage.

14 SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – PH

Applications should be put in for Christmas lights for next year; things did not go well this year.

The blue book should be issued this week; it will be online.

Amey are doing an impressive job on the roads. Requests are being followed up and work done very quickly. They have an office in Ayr, and requests can also be made online.

Shore Road has been redone and the white lines are being put on now.

There has been some concern that some of the holes remain despite the work being done.

An extension of the 30mph area along the A77 is going through. A staggered slow down is being proposed. 20mph signs are going up in a number of other villages.

Community asset transfer – Pinwherry School is being transferred to the community.

Government and private investment is being made to Prestwick Airport, which will create a large number of jobs. The proposal is that aircraft will go to high altitudes and launch satellites, many of which are made in Scotland. There are a lot of projects in the pipeline, although Brexit may affect imports and exports.

The Robert Burns Humanitarian Award is being awarded this week.

The law has changed in Scotland for fire alarms in houses. There has to be an interlinked smoke detector, heat detector and CO2 monitor. CB asked if there will be help with funding for low income families. The maximum cost for a 5-bedroom house is £400-500. It has been suggested that a whole street could be done at once, which would bring costs down.

Improvement work on council housing has been delayed due to covid. Work is being done on empty houses as people move out.

SAC is trying to identify if there is a desire for allotments. Gardening is good for mental health and good for socialising; there is an initiative to grow more food

The Coastal Fund has had some issues, but applications will hopefully be accepted shortly.

The running track will go ahead once the weather permits.

PH is now Chair of Business Loan Scotland, and also Chair of Supply Development Programme; this focuses on community wealth building.

A lot of small businesses are facing serious issues due to covid.

Covid – some schools have had to close, but community transmission is not high. There are issues caused by people not following the rules.

PH and the other councillors will have a meeting to decide if rotating is to continue.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LH said most of the lights are up at the old cemetery. The remaining lights should be up by the start of Advent. The £20 for batteries was for a donation to Arran Avenue, as the residents have raised money for their own decorations; they raised over £300.

PH said that granite is being taken from Ailsa Craig under licence; no birds are nesting at present.

3 wreaths were laid at the war memorial on Remembrance Day.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 26 January 2021